



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate

### FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE LIST

On Nov. 3, 2020, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): 2021-2022 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools (Nov. 2020). The initial [2021-2022 FSC List of Participating Schools](#) is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website. The unique codes on this list are assigned by the USDE to schools participating in the Title IV federal student aid programs. Students enter the FSC on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each school they wish to receive the processed application results. Instructions are provided in the announcement for schools that need to correct or update their FSC on the list.

### TECHNICAL

Several technical electronic announcements were published by the USDE in Nov. Those announcements are linked below with the date of publication.

- [COD System Implementation Information for Additional COD System Changes to Support the CARES Act – Supplemental Phase – Nov. 6, 2020](#)
- [Next Gen FSA – StudentAid.gov Website Enhancements Starting Nov. 2020 – Nov. 16, 2020](#)

- [2021-2022 Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers \(Nov. 2020 Final\) – Nov. 17, 2020](#)
- [Reminder: Active Confirmation of TG Numbers \(SAIG Mailboxes\) and Electronic Services User Accounts Required by Dec. 11, 2020 to Maintain Access to Federal Student Aid Systems – Nov. 17, 2020](#)
- [COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0e Now Available – Nov. 24, 2020](#)

### ABILITY TO BENEFIT

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued by the USDE Nov. 9, 2020: “Ability-to-Benefit” Tests and Passing Scores. This notice provides an updated list of ATB tests approved by the USDE.

### TRAINING

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Nov. 9, 2020: 2021-2022 FAFSA Feature of the myStudentAid Mobile App Preview Presentation (Updated Nov. 13, 2020). The Microsoft PowerPoint presentation attached to the announcement contains information and screen shots to assist the community with the 2021-2022 FAFSA feature of the myStudentAid mobile app. Financial aid administrators, mentors



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and counselors can use the presentation as a reference tool for internal staff training and other outreach activities. The 2021-2022 FAFSA Feature of the myStudentAid Mobile App Preview Presentation is attached to the announcement in Microsoft PowerPoint format.

Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-20-07](#) was published by the USDE Nov. 19, 2020: Online Training Video – CARES Act R2T4 School Training Video. A Federal Student Aid training video is available online to assist schools with using the Return of Title IV calculator located on the Common Origination and Disbursement website. The calculator allows schools to perform an R2T4 calculation specifically for aid recipients who withdrew due to COVID-19 related circumstances. The training video can be accessed at the Federal Student Aid E-Training website located at <https://fsatraining.ed.gov>.

## COLLEGE FINANCING PLAN

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Nov. 12, 2020: 2021-2022 College Financing Plan. In addition to the traditional undergraduate template and Responsive Preview released last year, the USDE has created a new form for Graduates and Professionals. There is a need to reflect the needs of graduate and professional school students more accurately. More

information on components, HTML specifications, a technical guide and Frequently Asked Questions are found at the following link:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html>.

## REFERENCE GUIDES

Two electronic announcements were published by the USDE in Nov. regarding reference guides. The announcements are linked below with the date of publication.

- [Availability of Updated NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Guide \(Nov. 2020\) and NSLDS Enrollment Submittal Template – Nov. 12, 2020](#)
- [Volume 6 – The Campus-Based Programs \[2020-2021 Federal Student Aid Handbook\] – Nov. 20, 2020](#)
- [2021-2022 COD Technical Reference – Nov. 24, 2020](#)

## TITLE IV FUNDS

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Nov. 18, 2020: Title IV Aid Disbursement Reporting, Excess Cash and Reconciliation Requirements. Schools are reminded in this announcement of Title IV program requirements for general disbursement reporting, excess cash and



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reconciliation. Both the Financial Aid Office and the Business Office should review the information provided as the requirements apply to disbursement and financial data. Contact information is provided for those who may have questions.

### VERIFICATION

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Nov. 20, 2020: 2021-2022 FAFSA Verification-Internal Revenue Service Tax Return Transcript Matrix. The 2021-2022 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix is attached to this announcement. Institutions can use this document for verification of tax return information.

### FSA DATA CENTER

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Nov. 20, 2020: Federal Student Aid Posts New Reports to FSA Data Center. The [FSA Data Center](#) is a centralized online source for Federal Student Aid data. The application, disbursement and portfolio reports are updated by FSA quarterly. The reports recently posted reflect activity as of Sept. 30, 2020. The announcement outlines the reports available, along with several key findings based on those reports.

### EXPERIMENTAL SITES INITIATIVE

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued by the USDE Nov. 23, 2020: Comment Request – Experimental Sites Initiative Reporting Tool 2020. The USDE is proposing revision of a currently approved collection. Comments must be submitted on or before Jan. 22, 2021.

### FREE SPEECH VIOLATION

On Nov. 25, 2020, the USDE issued a [Final Register Notice](#): Free Speech Violation Reporting. Information is provided on how institutions may submit a copy of certain final, non-default judgments to the USDE, to comply with the Religious Liberty and Free Inquiry Final Rule. A person may also report a violation of the regulations in the Final Rule that ensure equal treatment of religious student organizations at public institutions.